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MAR 16 2009

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising providing a secret cryptographic key and a public cryptographic key applicable in a network of connected computer nodes using a signature scheme, the method being executable by a first computer node and the step of providing comprising the steps of:

- generating the secret cryptographic key by:
 - selecting two random factor values,
 - multiplying the two selected random factor values to obtain a modulus value, and
 - selecting a secret base value ~~in dependence on~~ as a function of the modulus value,

wherein the secret base value forms part of the secret cryptographic key;

- generating the public cryptographic key by:
 - selecting a number of exponent values, and
 - deriving a public base value from the exponent values and the secret base value, wherein

the public base value and the modulus value form part of the public cryptographic key;

- deleting the two random factor values; and

- providing the public cryptographic key within the network;

~~such that~~ using the public cryptographic key and at least one of the selected exponent values is usable for verifying a signature value on a message; ~~to be sent~~

sending the message within the network to a second computer node within the network for verification; and

if the public cryptographic key has been revoked, aborting signing of the message.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a description of the exponent values within the network.

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3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising defining an order of the selected exponent values for enabling to communicate the validity of the signature value in the event of a detected intrusion.

4. (Currently amended) A method comprising providing a signature value on a message in a network of connected computer nodes, the method being executable by a first computer node and the step of providing comprising the steps of:

selecting a first signature element from a plurality of signature elements ~~comprising~~
included in said signature;

selecting a signature exponent value from a number of exponent values, said signature comprised of a plurality of signature exponent values; and

deriving a second signature element from a provided secret cryptographic key, the message, and the number of exponent values such that the first signature element, the second signature element, and the signature exponent value satisfy a known relationship with the message and a provided public cryptographic key, wherein the signature value comprises the first signature element, the second signature element, and a signature reference to the signature exponent value, ~~the signature value being sendable and~~

sending the message within the network to a second computer node within the network for verification; and

if the public cryptographic key has been revoked, aborting signing of the message.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of deriving a second signature element further comprises deriving a signature base value using a provided public cryptographic key, the provided secret cryptographic key, and the exponent values.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising deriving a new secret cryptographic key from the provided secret cryptographic key and the selected signature

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exponent value.

7. (Currently amended) A method comprising verifying a signature value on a message in a network of connected computer nodes, the method being executable by a second computer node and the step of verifying comprising the steps of:

receiving the signature value from a first computer node;
deriving a signature exponent value from the signature value; and
verifying whether the signature exponent value and part of the signature value satisfy a known relationship with the message and a provided public cryptographic key, otherwise refusing the signature value,
wherein the signature value was generated from a first signature element, a number of exponent values, a provided secret cryptographic key, and the message; and if the public cryptographic key has been revoked, aborting signing of the message.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying each of the exponent values to at most one signature value.

10. (Previously presented) A computer program element comprising program code means for performing the method of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

11. (Previously presented) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method according to claim 1.

12. (Currently amended) A network device comprising:
a computer program product for causing a computer to perform a method comprising

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steps of: ~~according to claim 11;~~

generating the secret cryptographic key by:

selecting two random factor values,

multiplying the two selected random factor values to obtain a modulus value; and

selecting a secret base value as a function of the modulus value, wherein the

secret base value forms part of the secret cryptographic key;

generating the public cryptographic key by:

selecting a number of exponent values, and

deriving a public base value from the exponent values and the secret base value,

wherein the public base value and the modulus value form part of the public cryptographic key;

deleting the two random factor values; and

providing the public cryptographic key within the network;

~~such that~~ using the public cryptographic key and at least one of the selected exponent values is usable for verifying a signature value on a message;

sending the message to a second computer node within the network for verification; and

if the public cryptographic key has been revoked, aborting signing of the message; and

a processor for executing the method; the processor having access to exchanged messages in the network.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising applying each of the exponent values to at most one signature value.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising applying each of the exponent values to at most one signature value.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A computer program element comprising program code means for

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performing the method of claim 4, when said program is run on a computer.

17. (Currently amended) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program ~~means~~ for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 4.

18. (Currently amended) A computer program element comprising program code ~~means~~ for performing the method of claim 7, when said program is run on a computer.

19. (Currently amended) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program ~~means~~ for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 7.

20. (Currently amended) A computer program element comprising program code ~~means~~ for performing the method of claim 8, when said program is run on a computer.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing functions of a network device, the computer readable program code ~~means~~ in said computer program product comprising computer readable program code ~~means~~ for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 12.